

AL-NOUR

The Light of Christ

March 3, 2013

Issue 358



النور

FATHER GEORGE H. SHALHOUB
248-374-0591

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THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX BASILICA OF ST. MARY

▪ 18100 Merriman Road ▪ Livonia, Michigan 48152 ▪ www.saintmarylivonia.com ▪ Office: (734)-422-0010 ▪

Sunday Services
Confession: 8:30AM
Matins: 9:00AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00AM

St. Mary's Cultural
and Banquet Center
(734) 421-9220

ودعي التلاميذ مسيحيين في انطاكية أولاً

“And the disciples were first called
Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26

Daily Confession by Appointment - Call the Church Office

March 3, 2013



SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

أحد الابن الشاطر



“As the Prodigal Son I come to Thee, merciful Lord. I have wasted my whole life in a foreign land; I have scattered the wealth which Thou gavest, O Father. Receive me in repentance, O God, and have mercy on me.” This hymn tells of the Prodigal Son, for Jesus’ parable of this name is the theme of the Gospel. As we move toward the season of Great Lent in the Orthodox Church, the Tradition of the church holds up examples of repentance for us. As in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, we learned from this Gospel to emulate the Publican’s humble repentance and to flee from the self-righteous and prideful complacency of the Pharisee. Humble self-realism is the foundation of repentance. The story of the Prodigal Son helps to deepen our understanding of repentance—what is and how much we need to embrace it. The story is a very familiar one. The younger son of a well-to-do man asks his share of his inheritance from his father in advance. Taking it, he turns his back on his father and his way of life and goes off, the Gospel says, to a “far country” where he dissipates his inheritance on wild living. He ends up broke-not in the gutter, but worse-in a pig sty, tending swine and wishing he could share their food-an image that certainly must have been appalling to the Jewish listeners who first heard this Gospel story and who, by law, regarded swine as unclean beasts. The prodigal ends up in the same condition as these swine in this distant and alien place. He grows desperate as famine strikes and leaves him starving. Then as the Gospel put it, he comes “to himself” he comes to his senses. He journeys back to his homeland, makes the long pilgrimage back to his father, hoping that at least he can be taken on as a “hired servant.” Far from that, his father somehow sees him coming in the distance, as though perhaps he has been patiently watching and waiting for his lost son all this time. He does not wait for the son to come with his head hanging in shame before him, but he runs out to meet him with the embrace of love. He puts a new robe on the thin and dirty body of his son as he casts off the tattered rages of his old alien life. He places the ring of stewardship on his finger and kills the fattened calf for a happy feast of celebration. “My son,” he says, “was dead, and is alive again-was lost and now is found.” Let us look deeply into this parable and see what riches of wisdom Christ has placed here for us who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

(continued on page 5)

The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

Fr. George Shalhoub - Pastor
Fr. Jim King - Director of Youth &
Pastoral Outreach
Programs
Archdeacon Issa Rizkallah
313-690-2030
Deacon Dr. Dennis Bojrab
Salem Samaan - Parish Council
Chairman
Linda Lawson - Choir Director
Stacey Badeen - Church Administrator
Arwa Ansara - Church School
Administrator
Richard Shebib/Sami Azzouz -
Ushers
Dr. Tom Saba - Young Adults-
St. John Divine
Georgine Hayes - Ladies Society
President
Nicole Khamis - Teen Soyo President
Lina Nunu - Arabic School
Keith Rowe - Cultural Center General
Manager 734-421-9220

THE EPISTLE

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians Chapter 6:12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 15:11-32

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

PRAYER CORNER

Lord, you are the physician of our souls and body. We pray You grant the following parishioners good health and blessings: Dr. Erik Hanby, baby Aydan Hujdurovic, Viola Boctor, Chakib Shahin, Isa Hasan, Ghassan Salloum, Jonathan Salah,

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

Holy Bread of Oblation is offered by the families, for the month of March, in loving memory of:

- Victoria Snage
- Shawky Mousa
- Boulos and Helen Saba
- Amjad George Saba

Condolences

The clergy and parishioners at the Basilica of St. Mary extend their deepest sympathy to wife Teri (Fuad Naser) Ayoub, her children Jennifer, Jack and Tiffany, mother Jasmine Ayoub, siblings Pete (Hanan), George (Nuha), Tony (Jenny), Vera and the entire Ayoub and Naser families on the passing of Mike Ayoub.

May his memory be eternal.

Festival News

The Festival Committee is meeting every Monday night at 7pm in the library. Anyone interested in serving on the committee or helping out in any way is encouraged to attend the meetings or contact Freddy Sackllah at 248-722-0741.

The Festival is scheduled for May 30-31, June 1-2.

Thank You

The following parishioners and friends of the Basilica of St. Mary have given special donations to the Church in the past few weeks:

- \$50**-In loving memory of father Shawky Mousa offered by Joe and Sharon Keepers,
- \$100**-In loving memory of Shawky Mousa offered by his wife Jannette Mousa,
- \$100**-In loving memory of Marie Matta offered by Violette Matta,
- \$100**-In loving memory of Aunt Marie Amin Matta offered by Walid and Dolly Matta and family,
- \$100**-Anonymous for Food for the Hungry,
- \$100**-In loving memory of Victoria Snage offered by her daughters Marion Shaheen and Liz Snage,
- \$100**-In loving memory of parents Boulos and Helen Saba and our beloved nephew Amjad George Saba offered by the family,
- \$150**-For the health and well being of newly baptized Luna Ibrahim offered by her parents, Ibrahim and Niveen Farah,
- \$200**-For the health and well being of newly engaged Joey Faris and Tania Jaghab offered by parents Said and Suzan Faris,
- \$250**-For the health and well being of newly baptized Serena Natalie offered by parents Abraham and Angela Leon,
- \$1020**-In loving memory of Sami Freij offered by family and friends,
- \$3000**-In loving memory of beloved husband and father, Sami Freij offered by Hasmeek Freij and family,

Upcoming Events for St. Mary Parishioners

March 5th - Ladies Society meeting

MEMORIALS

قال يسوع: أنا القيامة والحياة من آمن بي يحيى الى الأبد.

I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25)
March 24th - 40 day memorial in loving memory of Sami Freij offered by his wife Hasmeek Freij and family,



فليكن ذكرهم مؤبدا



"A Vigil Light is Burning" In Loving Devotion

For The Health and Well Being Of: Captain Timothy Lawson, David Shebib, Serena Leon, Donna Rameden,

In Memory Of: Joseph Michael Mouaikel; George Abodeely; Ken Biedron, Nagib Abboud, Adelia Corsi,

March is Ladies Month

Any ladies interested in ushering or reading the Epistle in English or Arabic during the month of March please contact Ayda Mughannem at 734-464-1872.

March 3rd:

- Ushers** - Marlyne Musleh
- Ayda Mughannem
- Naimeh Faris
- Irene Saba
- Georgette Haddad
- Ikhlas Dababneh
- Sue Warra
- Hilda Warra

English Epistle Reader:

Christa Shalhoub

Arabic Epistle Reader:

Irene Saba

Department of Youth and Outreach

Week of March 3, 2013

Upcoming Events



Every Saturday: Great Vespers (5:00-5:45)

Every Monday: Bible Study (7:00pm-8:00pm)

Every Wednesday: Mother-Toddler Group (10:00am-11:30am)

March 8: RockyRoad (6:00-8:00pm)

March 9: Church School teacher meeting (10:00-11:30am)

March 15: RockyRoad (6:00-8:00pm)

March 16: Teen SOYO visits Ascension Monastery

March 22: RockyRoad (6:00-8:00pm)

March 24: Teen SOYO Movie Night (5:30-8:00pm)

If you have any questions regarding any of these events, please call
Fr. Jim King at the Department of Youth and Outreach office.

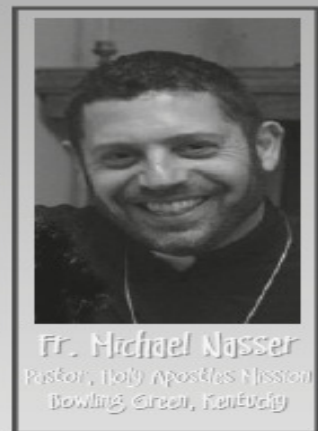
The life of the Basilica depends on you. Get involved today!

Midwest Young Adult Retreat

Guest Speaker: Fr. Michael Nasser

APRIL 5-7, 2013

- All-inclusive Registration fee: \$145 per person which includes triple/quad occupancy hotel-style lodging, all meals, and retreat registration.
- Open to all College age, Young Professionals and Young Adults (ages 18-40), both married and single.
- Schedule and registration form online at www.antiochian.org/midwest



Please visit our website for details about all the Basilica of St. Mary events and activities.
www.saintmarylivonia.com

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The prodigal takes his inheritance away to “a far country.” He rejects the good life he shares with his father in favor of a differed kind of life far from home. We think immediately of Adam, our first parent, called by St. Luke a “son of God” in his genealogy, Chapter 3:38 of his Gospel. Adam is a creature adopted by God as His son, His child. But he is not an appreciative son. He is one who is taken his birthright, his inheritance of freedom and godliness and wastes it. He goes his own way, far from the Paradise, to a land that tempts him from afar but ends up as a place of pain, deprivation, and despair. The “far country” is this world-the abandoned homeland is Paradise. The prodigal, we can see is not some special kind of person. He is Adam, every man, you and I. The prodigal is not someone we can look down our nose at, eyeing his dissipated life from the high ground of moral rectitude. If we think we can interpret this parable along such lines, we have surely missed the point of the parable, that of the Publican and Pharisee, altogether. The prodigal is not someone else-the homosexual, the drug addict, the dissolute swinger. This is a parable and Jesus expects us to see beyond the details of the story to the deeper and broader meaning. Looking at it in this way, we must say that the prodigal son is every man, every child of God, you and I.

Dated Material

Return service requested

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The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

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